AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a switched arbitrated loop system with multiple trunks including strings, configured for communication using the Fibre Channel protocol, a method to address lockup conditions, comprising:

a) with respect to a particular switch in the system, detecting a particular combination of a plurality of pending open conditions on the multiple trunks indicating a lockup condition, wherein step a) further comprises:

al) detecting that, with respect to the particular switch, there is a pending open at a first port on at least one particular one of the strings and a connection on one of a first and second port for at least another of the strings; and

a2) detecting at least one port not detected in a1) having a destination that is a connection on at least one string detected in a1), wherein the pending open on the port detected in a2) has a close counter at maximum value; and

b) based on the detection, closing at least one of the plurality of pending open conditions, thereby alleviating the lockup condition.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein:

step a) further includes detecting, for particular ones of the multiple trunks on which there is a connection, a lack of data communication on those trunks.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein:

detecting a lack of data communication on a particular trunk includes detecting that a particular type of signal has not been detected on that particular trunk for a predetermined period of time.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein:

the particular type of signal includes RRDY a Receiver Ready primitive and SOF a Start of Frame delimiter.

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Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein:

with respect to the particular switch, the trunks are configured into groups of multiple trunks; and

the particular condition includes, for each of the groups of multiple trunks, at least one of the trunks being characterized by a pending open condition and at least one other of the trunks being characterized by a lack of data communication thereon.

Claim 6 (canceled).